



RIPPPONDEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.


ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
for 1938.

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Ripponden

Urban District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1938, which is the first complete year of the Ripponden Urban District resulting from the amalgamation of the Soyland, Barkisland and Rishworth Urban Districts.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Part-time Medical Officer of Health :—A. J. W. Stephen, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. who also holds the appointments of District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator.

Sanitary Inspector :—George S. Taylor, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Waterworks Manager :—John Holroyd, who is also Chief Financial Officer and Rating and Valuation Officer.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of the District—13,240 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population—5,220 (28 fewer than for the previous year).

Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938) according to rate books—1774.

Rateable Value (1938-39)—£31,306.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£123

Social Conditions.—A considerable part of the area is moorland. Very little land is cultivated, the land being used for cattle grazing, sheep farming and poultry keeping.

The chief industries are Cotton, Woollen, Paper Manufacture and Engineering. There has been much unemployment in the Cotton Mills.

More and more lads and girls tend to find employment outside the local mills, travelling in many cases to Sowerby Bridge and Halifax.

The **Ripponden and District Nursing Association** continues to prosper and, by its Nurse, do good work. Another year has passed without Rishworth being included. I believe that steps have now been taken to effect the inclusion.

Nurse Neave, the County Midwife and Maternity Nurse for this area continues her good work. It is noteworthy, however, that only about half of the births are at home, the other half being mostly in the Halifax Hospitals.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are helpful.

Vital Statistics.—The numbers of live births, stillbirths and deaths are those **Registered** during the calendar year (i.e. 1st January to 31st December, inclusive), adjusted for inward and outward transfers.

	M.	F.	Total.	
Births —	39	36	75	Included are 3 female illegitimate births.

The **Birth-rate** for the year per 1,000 population is therefore 13.3. This compares with 14.9 in 1937 and an England and Wales rate of 15.1.

	M.	F.	Total.	
Still-births—	2	—	2	(both legitimate) = a rate of 0.35 per 1,000 population, (0.76 in 1937).

The England and Wales rate was 0.60.

The rate per 1,000 total births is 25.9.

Deaths —	37	44	81	from all causes. The Death-rate was 14.4 per 1,000, compared with 12.4 in the previous year. The E & W rate was only 11.6.
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The Birth-rate continues to be too low whilst the Death rate is high, partly accounted for, perhaps, by the high average age of the population.

There was no death from Puerperal Sepsis, but one death from other Puerperal causes = to a rate of 12.9 per 1,000 total births.

There were **two deaths of infants under one year of age** (both legitimate) = a rate of 26.6 per 1,000 live-births and 27.5 per 1,000 legitimate live births.

There was one death from **Diphtheria** and one death from **Pulmonary Tuberculosis**.

There was no death from any other Infectious Disease nor from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age.

Among other classified deaths :—

Heart Disease caused	24 deaths
Other Circulating Diseases caused	...	5 deaths.
Cancer caused	12 deaths.
Pneumonia (all forms)	7 deaths.
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. caused	...	6 deaths.
Diabetes caused	2 deaths.
Violence (no Suicide) caused	7 deaths.

There were very few Deaths at an early age, no fewer than 38 out of the total of 81 being at an age of 70 years or over.

Infectious Diseases.

The Scarlet Fever epidemic of 1937 continued into 1938, 28 cases of **Scarlet Fever** having been notified. They were of a mild type.

Two cases of **Diphtheria** and three cases of **Pneumonia** were also notified. As I have said one child died from Diphtheria. I would again remind you that this disease can be prevented. All children over 9 months of age can be immunised free of charge and it is very advisable that all children should be done before reaching school age.

This is not recognised by parents.

24 cases of Scarlet Fever and the two cases of Diphtheria were removed to Northowram Isolation Hospital (Halifax County Borough) and the houses were disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

Tuberculosis.

Four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, one of the cases having come to the district with the disease and left again before the end of the year.

Cases were removed from the list for various reasons. The number on my Register at the end of the year was 20—10 pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary.

Sanitary Conditions of the District.

Water Supply. The Soyland supply has continued to be satisfactory. On the other hand the Rishworth supply continued to be very plumbo-solvent. In the second half of the year the Rishworth supply was cut off from houses and its place taken by the Soyland water. Towards the end of the year the building of a water treatment house was begun, in which to erect a Bell's neutralising plant.

Attention was given to some private supplies where the water was found to be defective.

Sanitation. Nineteen Privies were re-constructed as Water Closets. Two additional W.C.'s were provided for old property and 14 for new houses.

There are still 530 houses not connected to sewers.

Scavenging has continued to improve, many more ashbins having been provided.

The district looks clean.

Housing. During the year 14 new houses were erected by private enterprise. Twelve dwelling-houses were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. Other five have been condemned and are awaiting demolition which is somewhat delayed.

The houses at Penny Hill, Barkisland are unfit for human habitation and action is being taken.

It is noticeable that many houses have been improved either with or without informal notice. Many windows have been made to open but it is surprising how few bedroom windows one sees open during the day.

The work being done is a credit to the Council.

Factories, etc. were inspected. Form 572 has been completed.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. The district seems to be practically free of these pests. No house had to be dealt with during the year.

Other details will be found in the various Tables and Forms which I have completed with the assistance of Mr. Taylor and Mr. Holroyd to whom I am grateful.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. W. STEPHEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

July 13th, 1939.

